

Message Text

SECRET

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46

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 L-03 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 SAJ-01 MBFR-03 ACDA-19 AEC-11 PRS-01

RSR-01 /108 W

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R 021613Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6063

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

SECDEF WASHDC

USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

S E C R E T BONN 09457

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MCAP, GW

SUBJECT: LEBER-GALLEY CONVERSATIONS ON DEFENSE

1. DEFENSE MINISTRY SOURCES TOLD US THAT THEY ARE CAUTIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT FRENCH ATTITUDES TOWARD EUROPEAN DEFENSE MATTERS AS A RESULT OF THE LEBER-GALLEY CONVERSATIONS HERE ON JUNE 21-22. ACCORDING TO THEM, THE FRENCH SHOW NO SIGNS OF HAVING CHANGED THEIR BASIC POLICIES, BUT THEY ARE CLEARLY MORE INTERESTED IN NATO THAN A FEW YEARS AGO, PROBABLY BECAUSE THEY ARE CONVINCED THAT US TROOP REDUCTIONS ARE INEVITABLE AND THE US AND USSR ARE BOUND TO ENGAGE IN MORE BILATERAL AGREEMENTS IN THE FUTURE. THESE DEVELOPMENTS WHICH IN THE FRENCH VIEW MAY FOSTER A GROWTH OF EUROPEAN NEUTRALITY, SEEM TO HAVE SPURRED POMPIDOU INTO TAKING SOME KIND OF NEW LOOK AT EUROPEAN DEFENSE QUESTIONS.

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2. ONE MOD SOURCE SAID THAT THE LEBER-GALLEY EXCHANGE

HAS LED TO A DEFINITE CHANGE OF CLIMATE IN FRG-FRENCH
DEFENSE RELATIONS. HE HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT WITH THE
DEPARTURE OF DEBRE, ALL PROBLEMS--INCLUDING THE CRUCIAL
ONES OF THE WARTIME EMPLOYMENT OF THE FFA AND PLUTON
TARGETTING--ARE OPEN TO DISCUSSION WITH PARIS. GALLEY,
HOWEVER, CAUTIONED LEBER THAT THERE IS NO PUBLIC SUPPORT
IN FRANCE FOR INTEGRATING FRENCH CONVENTIONAL OR NUCLE-
AR FORCES INTO A EUROPEAN DEFENSE SYSTEM, OR FOR CLOSE
COOPERATION WITH THE EUROGROUP. ON EUROGROUP, INCIDENT-
TALLY, OUR SOURCES DO NOT EXCLUDE AN EVENTUAL FRENCH
MOVE TOWARD FRENCH PARTICIPATION, ALTHOUGH THERE IS NO
EVIDENCE SUCH A STEP IS NEAR. NONETHELESS, FRG DEFENSE
OFFICIALS AGREE THAT AT THE MINIMUM THEY CAN NOW EXPECT
MUCH MORE FRANK AND MORE OPEN DISCUSSIONS WITH
THE FRENCH ON DEFENSE ISSUES THAN PREVIOUSLY.
HILLENBRAND

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